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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/028,382	12/21/2001	Michael A. Epstein	US010632	4889

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EXAMINER

SCHUBERT, KEVIN R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2137

DATE MAILED: 05/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/028,382

Applicant(s)

EPSTEIN, MICHAEL A

Examiner

Kevin Schubert

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 May 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12212001, 10142003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-6 have been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5 The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

10 Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claim recites "a duration of K data samples". The limitation does not make sense. A data sample, such as a number, is not a duration. A duration can correspond to a data sample, but a duration cannot be a data sample.

15 ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

20 (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

25 Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Akiyama, European Patent Application No. EP 1,041,767.

As per claims 1 and 4, the applicant describes a hashing system with the following limitation which is met by Akiyama:

- 30 a) a plurality of hash devices ([0029]);
- b) each hash device of the plurality of hash devices being configured to apply a hash function to a received data value of the sequence of data values when enabled ([0029], Fig 1);

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c) at least one comparator, operably coupled to the plurality of hash devices, that is configured to compare an output of each hash device to the source hash value, to facilitate a verification of the sequence of data values ([0030], Fig 1);

Akiyama discloses a hashing system which includes a plurality of hash units (3 of Fig 1). Data is transmitted to a certifying station as a sequence of data values such as D1,D2,D3. The hashing units apply hashing functions to the received data values. The first hashing unit is enabled when it receives data values (D1'~Dn' of Fig 1). The hashing units are selectively enabled in the system based on the number of authenticators used ([0031]). If 3 authenticators are used, three hashing units are enabled in the system. The comparator compares the output of each hash unit to a source hash value received from the signing station to authenticate the signing station.

As per claims 2 and 5, the applicant describes the hashing system of claims 1 and 4, which are met by Akiyama, with the following limitation which is also met by Akiyama:

Wherein each hash device is enabled sequentially ([0062], Fig 4B)

The first hashing unit is enabled when it receives data values (D1'~Dn' of Fig 1). The remaining hashing units are enabled sequentially as seen in Fig 4B where the first hashing unit is enabled from the received data and authenticator CS1 is generated, the second hashing unit is enabled after the first hashing unit has already been enabled allowing the second hashing unit to receive L12 in its calculation of CS2, etc.

As per claims 3 and 6, the applicant describes the hashing system of claims 1 and 4, which are met by Akiyama, with the following limitations which are also met by Akiyama:

a) each hash function is enabled for a duration of K data samples (Fig 4A, Fig 4B);

b) the plurality of hash devices corresponds to K hash devices (Fig 4A, Fig 4B);

As illustrated in Figs 4A and 4B, 3 data samples (D1,D2,D3) are input and hash functions are applied for each data sample. Also 3 hash units are used.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Schubert whose telephone number is (571) 272-4239. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,
5 Andrew Caldwell can be reached on (571) 272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through
10 Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER